

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 061406Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2008

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 10412

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS: SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ISSUES  
PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVES

REF: CARACAS 10238

1. DURING THIS LAST WEEK BEFORE THE DECEMBER 9 ELECTIONS THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CSE) HAS BEEN BUSY COPING WITH A NUMBER OF MINOR PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, BUT PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL ELECTION CONTINUE TO BE GOOD.

2. ONE PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT AN APPARENTLY LARGE NUMBER OF VOTERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN NOTIFIED THROUGH THE MAIL WHERE THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO VOTE, AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN ERRONEOUSLY ADVISED AS TO THEIR POLLING PLACES. STILL OTHERS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, BUT THAT FOR SOME REASON THEIR NAMES DO NOT APPEAR ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER. THE CSE HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THESE AND SOME OTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BY OPENING SEVERAL SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION CENTERS, AND ANNOUNCING NEW PROVISIONS FOR LAST-MINUTE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS NOT APPEARING ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A GOOD MANY PEOPLE APPARENTLY ARE STILL TRYING TO ASCERTAIN WHERE THEY MUST VOTE OR TO REGISTER TO

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VOTE, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED THE REQUEST OF THE CSE

TO DECLARE DECEMBER 7 AND 8 HOLIDAYS SO THAT VOTERS CAN ATTEND TO THESE MATTERS.

3. BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATION THAT THE VOTING PROCESS MAY TAKE LONGER THAN EXPECTED, IN PART DUE TO THE LONGER TIME IT MAY TAKE TO CHECK VOTERS' CREDENTIALS DUE TO THE LAST-MINUTE ARRANGEMENTS NOTED ABOVE, THE CSE HAS EXTENDED THE VOTING PERIOD BY TWO HOURS. THUS POLLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WILL BE OPEN FROM 5:30 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 9, AND THEY MUST REMAIN OPEN AFTER 6:00 P.M. IF AT THAT TIME VOTERS ARE IN LINE STILL WAITING TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

4. OTHER RECENT DIRECTIVES OF THE CSE INCLUDE A BAN ON THE SALE OF LIQUOR THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA FROM MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 8 TO 6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 10, AND A BAN ON PUBLIC ATTRACTIONS (MOVIES, SPORTS EVENTS AND THE LIKE) FROM 12:01 A.M TO 6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 9 AS STATED IN REFTTEL, ALL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING IS SCHEDULED TO END MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 6.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALES, RECREATION, ELECTION FORECASTS, SUFFRAGE, VOTER REGISTRATION, POLLING STATIONS, CURFEW, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Subject:** VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS: SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ISSUES PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVES  
**TAGS:** PINT, VE, CSE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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